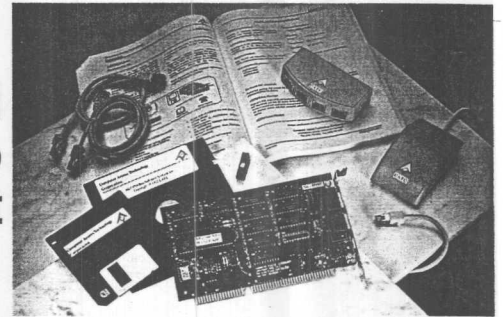




ACCESS.bus controller board connects 125 peripherals to a single PC/AT comm port



The first ACCESS.bus controller board allowing the connection of up to 125 peripheral devices to a single communications port in a PC/AT computer is available from Computer Access Technology Corporation.

ACCESS.bus is an open industry standard that provides a simple and uniform way to connect multiple interactive I/O devices like keyboards, mice, trackballs, digitizers, scanners, and numerous others to a single computer port.

ACCESS.bus features a data rate of 100,000 bits per second with hardware arbitration and dynamic reconfiguration. It is based on off-the-shelf, low-cost I²C microcontroller technology.

The CATC A.b-125I PC/AT controller board serves as an ACCESS.bus master providing connectivity for desktop as well as instrumentation and control applications. The board, based on the Signetics 8 x C654 microcontroller with I²C interface, is supported by an extensive software package including on-board microcode to control the operation of physical ACCESS.bus devices, and an ACCESS.bus manager pro-

gram that runs as a TSR under the PC/AT DOS operating system and routes control and applications messages between the physical devices and their software drivers. A Windows 3.1 version of the manager program can be ordered as an option.

The A.b-125I controller is a highly integrated half-board (4.2" x 6.5") design that fits a single 16-bit AT/ISA slot and provides two physical ACCESS.bus connectors. An 8K x 8-bit SRAM buffer memory is included on the board.

The unit controls a standard ACCESS.bus network supporting up to 125 devices at distances to 25' or 250' with an optional external ACCESS.bus buffer.

To make the development process easier, CATC offers an ACCESS.bus development support package. The A.b-DEV-KIT contains the A.B-125I controller board, an ACCESS.bus mouse, expansion box and cables, and an 87C751 microcontroller. The development kit also includes a comprehensive software package and a user's manual. The software package consists of the A.b-125I on-board microcode and ACCESS.bus manager, and a sophisticated

ACCESS.bus monitor and control program. Source code for generic device driver interfaces on the PC and for ACCESS.bus device software modules is also included.

The monitor can significantly reduce the time and effort spent on software development. The program lets the user review the behavior of each ACCESS.bus device and connect virtual devices to software drivers. The monitor displays all devices on the bus with their capabilities, identification strings and status. It allows the user to send ACCESS.bus commands manually to any device on the bus and to the A.b-125I controller board. All ACCESS.bus events are recorded in a log file.

CATC. The A.b-125I controller board, the A.b-DEV-KIT ACCESS.bus development support package, and ACCESS.bus accessories are all available from CATC. Controller boards are priced at \$86 each in quantities of 1000. The development support package is \$1500.

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